

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SINGAP 03674 160900Z

ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15

ICA-11 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 AID-05 HA-05

OPIC-03 /100 W

-----105051 161030Z /21

R 160730Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0897

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 3674

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEAN, SN

SUBJECT: GOS PLEASED WITH US-ASEAN MINISTERIAL

1. SUMMARY, SINGAPORE IS HIGHLY SATISFIED WITH OUTCOME OF US-ASEAN MINISTERIAL MEETINGS. WHAT IT PARTICULARLY WANTED AND GOT WAS COMMITMENT BY USG TO CONSULT WITH ASEAN ON MATTERS AFFECTING SEASIA AND TOP-LEVEL EXPRESSION OF US SUPPORT FOR ASEAN AS INSTITUTION THAT HAS ARRIVED. END SUMMARY.

2. MFA DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR REGIONAL AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS CHEW TAI SOO BRIEFED US AUGUST 15 ON GOS PARTICIPATION IN AND REACTION TO US-ASEAN MINISTERIAL MEETINGS. HE PRONOUNCED THEM "GREAT SUCCESS" FROM SINGAPORE'S VIEWPOINT. GOS HAS ALL ALONG BELIEVED, AND TRIED WITH SOME SUCCESS TO PERSUADE OTHER ASEAN COUNTRIES, THAT PRIMARY OBJECTIVE FOR MEETINGS SHOULD BE TO ESTABLISH FRAMEWORK FOR US-ASEAN LONG-TERM COOPERATION
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SINGAP 03674 160900Z

AND TO ELICIT STRONG STATEMENTS OF SUPPORT FROM TOP USG OFFICIALS FOR ASEAN AS MATURE REGIONAL GROUPING. THIS, HE SAID, WAS ACHIEVED, PARTICULARLY A COMMITMENT BY USG TO CONSULT WITH ASEAN ON DEVELOPMENTS, INCLUDING US POLICY INTENTIONS, THAT AFFECT SEASIA.

3. CHEW RELATED THAT HE HAD DRAFTED SENTENCE FOR FINAL DE-

CLARATION TO EFFECT THAT US AND ASEAN WOULD CONSULT ON MATTERS AFFECTING SEASIA, AND THAT ALL ASEAN REPS HAD AGREED ON SUCH LANGUAGE UNTIL MALAYSIAN DRAFTER HAD CONSULTED WITH FOREIGN MINISTER RITHAUDDEEN, WHO REJECTED IT. CHEW SOMEWHAT DISGUSTEDLY SPECULATED THAT GOM WAS SUSCEPTIBLE TO VIETNAMESE BLANDISHMENTS ABOUT SOME FORM OF ZOPFAN AND WISHED, PARTLY IN ORDER NOT TO ALIENATE VIETNAMESE, TO AVOID ANY APPEARANCE OF "ALIGNMENT" WITH US. HE OPINED THAT MALAYSIA HAS NEVER HAD STRONG FOREIGN MINISTER AND THAT MALAYSIAN FOREIGN POLICY IS MADE BY BUREAUCRATS ENAMORED OF THEIR ZOPFAN INITIATIVE.

4. CHEW WAS ALSO CRITICAL OF MALAYSIAN INSISTENCE ON RAISING NORTH/SOUTH ISSUES AT MINISTERIAL MEETINGS AND THOUGHT INDONESIANS HAVE MORE RATIONALLY PULLED BACK SOMEWHAT FROM FULL ADVOCACY OF EXTREME G-77 POSITIONS, ESPECIALLY ON COMMON FUND. BUT, HE SAID, BOTH COUNTRIES HAVE PUT THEMSELVES IN A BOX ON COMMON FUND WHICH, IN ITS G-77 VERSION, IS NOT REALLY IN THEIR INTERESTS; E.G., MALAYSIA AND INDONESIA DO NOT NEED SECOND-WINDOW HELP AND WOULD END UP PAYING FOR SECOND-WINDOW PROJECTS IN OTHER LDCS. CHEW ADDED THAT GOS HAD NOT EXPECTED ANY CHANGE IN US POSITIONS ON NORTH/SOUTH ISSUES; IT WAS PLEASED WITH USG PROMISE TO TRY TO REACH EARLY AGREEMENT ON COMMON FUND, BUT HE PERSONALLY DID NOT EXPECT SUCH EARLY AGREEMENT TO COME ABOUT SINCE THERE SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN NO REAL CHANGE IN ANYONE'S POSITIONS. HE IMPLIED THAT GOS IS NOT PARTICULARLY UPSET ABOUT BEING EFFECTIVELY EXCLUDED

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SINGAP 03674 160900Z

FROM US REGIONAL ASSISTANCE PROJECTS, ALTHOUGH HE HOPED USG COULD FOLLOW THROUGH ON BROADENING DEFINITION OF BASIC HUMAN NEEDS TO INCLUDE THOSE OF URBAN POOR.

5. CHEW WELCOMED OPIC INVESTMENT MISSION AND, IN THIS CONNECTION, ASKED ABOUT POSSIBLE TIMING FOR BILATERAL INVESTMENT TREATY.

6. GOS WAS DELIGHTED WITH AMOUNT OF TOP-LEVEL ATTENTION ASEAN GOT IN WASHINGTON. CHEW MENTIONED APPRECIATIVELY THAT SECRETARY VANCE HAD SPENT GREAT DEAL OF TIME WITH ASEAN MINISTERS. GOS FOUND US CABINET MEMBERS KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT AND INTERESTED IN ASEAN AND ITS PARTICULAR CONCERNS.

7. COMMENT: ONE OF GOS'S MAJOR CONCERNS SINCE VIETNAM HAS BEEN THAT US WILL PULL IN THE PERIMETER OF WHAT IT CONSIDERS ITS VITAL GEOGRAPHIC INTERESTS IN ASIA TO EXCLUDE SINGAPORE, THAILAND, MALAYSIA AND INDONESIA. IT KNOWS THAT TINY SINGAPORE CAN EXERT NO GREAT CLAIM ON US INTERESTS BUT BELIEVES THAT ASEAN AS A GROUP IS FAR BETTER ABLE TO DO SO. GOS PROMOTION OF A STRONG US-ASEAN RELATIONSHIP IS DESIGNED TO MAINTAIN A US COMMITMENT TO SEASIA AND THUS TO SERVE A KEY GOS SECURITY INTEREST. IT BELIEVES THAT WASHINGTON MEETINGS MADE GOOD PRO-

GRESS TOWARD THIS OBJECTIVE. GOS IMPATIENCE WITH MALAYSIAN
CAREFUL ADHERENCE TO NON-ALIGNED POSTURE, WE BELIEVE, REFLECTS
DISTINCT DIFFERENCE IN BASIC FOREIGN POLICIES. AS WE HAVE
OFTEN BEEN TOLD BY SINGAPOREANS, SINGAPORE LOOKS TO THE WEST
AND ESPECIALLY THE US FOR ITS POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC WELL-
BEING. IT MUST NORMALLY MUTE THIS ASPECT OF ITS POLICY TO AVOID
IRRITATING ITS ASEAN PARTNERS AND UNNECESSARILY ALIENATING
COMMUNIST COUNTRIES WITH WHOM IT WISHES TO MAINTAIN OR DEVELOP
CORRECT (AND PROFITABLE) RELATIONS. FOREIGN MINISTER
RAJARATNAM'S "YOUR SIDE OF THE FENCE" COMMENTS IN THE US
PROBABLY REPRESENT A CONSCIOUS DECISION TO IMPRESS USG WITH
SINGAPORE'S BASIC POLICY ORIENTATION EVEN AT COST OF ANNOYING
SOME OF ITS ASEAN PARTNERS. WE WOULD EXPECT GOS TO CONTINUE
IN ASEAN COUNCILS TO STRESS IMPORTANCE OF WASHINGTON CONNECTION.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 SINGAP 03674 160900Z

KNEIP

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MINISTERIAL MEETINGS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978SINGAP03674
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780335-0046
Format: TEL
From: SINGAPORE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780858/aaaabwqq.tel
Line Count: 137
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e5f58662-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1721804
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOS PLEASED WITH US-ASEAN MINISTERIAL
TAGS: EGEN, SN, US, ASEAN
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e5f58662-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014